

The Desert Whispers

from Johnson Valley



VOL. 2, NO. 2

THE MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA

OCT. 26, 1968

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

by Aileen De Victoria

Johnson Valley was well-represented at the Landers Fun Festival by participants and watchers.

The Search and Rescue group received a trophy for its part in the parade. The William Biners' grandchildren won first place awards, and winning a second place ribbon were "old prospector" Jack Inns, "Butch," and Michelle and Dana Dumond.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our good friend Bob Presley.

The Desert Ears steak fry and the Johnson Valley Association dime-a-dip were two more successful affairs well-attended.

Marylin, Howard and Terry Tiggeman spent a week in their cabin, with Howard taking three days to join Joe De Victoria on a deer hunt. Joe returned home with the flu, and the Tiggemans returned to their home down below and found it had been burglarized. Their desert cabin was broken into last spring.

All this, plus no deer!

Burt Campbell, Desert Ears president, was injured, and his truck was a total loss, in an accident while he was driving north on business. Fourteen stitches were required for a head cut. He also suffered several broken ribs and numerous cuts plus a gasoline bath. Best wishes Burt, for a rapid recovery.

Charlie Rope was rushed to the hospital by friends and neighbors, and is reportedly coming along nicely.

Jerry and Mary Neary vacationing at their cabin. Weekend guests were Earl and June Kuskey and their two sons. The Nearys are deep in plans for the marriage of their daughter Kathy, on Nov. 9.

Question: What group of weekenders left the Chisel Inn at closing, meandered up to the Nearys for breakfast, then at 5 a.m. went jogging on Timico Road?

Pat and Dick Reeley dune buggy riding during their vacation here. Pat joined in the Ladies' Day pool at the Chisel Inn.

TURKEY DINNER NOV. 2

Everyone Welcome

A turkey dinner is the November social sponsored by the Johnson Valley Improvement Association. Serving will begin at 5:30 p.m., in the community building on Larrea Road.

Cost is \$1.50 per person. Reservations are not required. Chairman of the fund-raising event is Eva Jarvis.

The regular meeting of the Association is scheduled following the dinner.

More than 100 persons attended the October dime-a-dip, boosting association funds by \$148.

The fund-raising are also aimed at providing a means for Johnson Valley residents to get acquainted, according to Alex Chernoff, JVIA president.

Saturday's business will include discussion of plans for the December bazaar, and progress reports on water, telephones, and other items of local interest.

TWO SERIOUSLY INJURED

William and Katie Young, of Victorville, were seriously injured Sunday, when their car struck a parked truck on Old Woman Springs Road. The truck loaded with cattle and horses had run out of gas.

The Youngs were taken to Palm Springs Hospital.

Assisting on CB radios were Marie Dundee, Jake Jacobs, and KBL 9025, Big Bear.

Giving aid at the scene prior to the arrival of the ambulance and sheriffs were Mike Dundee, Nancy Dumond, and Burl and Thelma Moore.

SHOUTS AND WHISPERS

Jake and Mildred Jacobs are home from a 5,000 mile trip to the Ozarks, and north to Des Moines, Iowa, visiting friends and relatives.

Bea Roush and her sister Hazel, of Long Beach, have returned from a sojourn to Phoenix.

Alex and Grace White are back from a visit to their daughter in Boulder, Col. Beautiful weather all the way, Mrs. White reported.

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Valley, Calif. 92284"The world is a comedy to those who
think, a tragedy to those who feel.

-Horace Walpole

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPERSSeveral projects sponsored by the
Johnson Valley Improvement Association
provide ideas for Christmas shoppers
and will raise funds for the organi-
zation.Mae Hartwell and Louise Bell are
co-chairmen of the committee in charge
of candy sales.Members and friends are invited to
buy and to sell the candies, which are
from the kitchens of Kathryn Beich,
Bloomington, Ill.**BAZAAR**Boutique items, hand-made gifts and
new merchandise will be offered at the
bazaar scheduled for Dec. 7 at the
association hall.Members are invited to donate new
articles suitable for gifts, knitted
crocheted and embroidered items, jams
and jellies, arts, crafts, pottery and
paintings.Many one-of-a-kind items will be
available for the thoughtful shopper.**HOSIERY**Hosiery and panty-hose of top quality
are available at reduced prices through
the association. Orders are filled
rapidly and mailing is direct to the
customer.**TURKEY DINNER - \$1.50**A turkey dinner will be served at
the Nov. 2 meeting of the association
in the community building on Larrea Road.Everyone is invited. Cost is \$1.50
per person. The project is a fund-
raising affair. Members are invited to
bring cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes,
mince or apple pies or cole slaw.Eva Jarvis is chairman of the dinner
committee and may be contacted for
information regarding donations.Information regarding all of the
fund-raising projects will be given at
the Nov. 2 meeting of the Association
following the dinner.The funds are used to maintain the
hall, operating expenses, and building
additions. The next project planned
is a kitchen addition to provide a
meeting place for all local organi-
zations.The association meets the first
Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in
the winter months and 8 p.m. during the
summer. Everyone is welcome and is
urged to express opinions, although
only members have voting privileges.

SUCCESS STORY

More than 250 persons attended the Desert Ears steak fry at Cole's Sunny Acres last Saturday, and enjoyed juicy barbecued steaks.

Dozens of door prizes were awarded.

The heavy traffic stirred up the one entrance road, causing a delay in exit of vehicles, but provided members and guests with an opportunity to catch up on the gossip. (Look for a jump in sale of 4-wheel drive vehicles.)

Pearl and Ancel Cole again opened their home for the affair.

TRAVELERS

Chuck and Jean Breese are enjoying a tour of the Hawaiian Islands, flying over on a 200-passenger Douglas plane.

Highlights included the Kona Coast, Hilo, volcanos and Rainbow Falls. They witnessed an entire luau from preparation of the pig and the pit, the religious ceremony, and concluding with the luau.

Other points of interest were Lahaina, an historic whalers' town which has the oldest hospital on the United States, and a tour of five islands, ending with eight days on Waikiki.

SHOUTS AND WHISPERS

Doug and Frances Rosenberg are building a kitchen and bath addition to the "pointed house" in Johnson Valley.

* * *

Good to see Mervin Sharp up and about and looking great after 24 days in the hospital.

Mervin said many thanks to all his friends who showered him with cards, letters and good wishes during his enforced vacation.

* * *

Bill Chisholm has spent a couple of weekends with Stan (Coot) Coutant, and has found the desert has some nice attractions.

* * *

Looking over their five acres in Timico last week were Ross and Nena Kingston. After meeting a lot of other desert lovers at the steak fry, they gave a little more thought to the possibility of building on their property.

* * *

Marie Stanley is home from a trip to Long Beach with a great big smile. Her daughter Audrey Brown is recovering from a serious illness. Marie said she can't say thank you enough to all who joined her in praying for Audrey's recovery.

* * * * *

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Worship 11 a.m.

Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

Hour of Power Wednesday 7 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mesa Road, Lucerne Valley

Sunday Masses at 8 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Patrick J. Scanlan, Pastor

DIME A DIP NOV. 16

The Search and Rescue unit of Johnson Valley has scheduled a dime-a-dip dinner for 7 p.m., Nov. 16 at the Chisel Inn.

Proceeds will be used for the group's rescue funds.

The public is invited to the dinner, which follows the regular meeting to be held at 6 p.m.

The trophy won by the unit in the Landers Fun Festival will be on display.

Ten members attended the October session, and authorized Joe De Victoria to contact the Highway Patrol in 29 Palms for additional road flares.

Appreciation was expressed to Mervin Sharp and Martha Coutant for providing copies of trip information and letters of welcome for the rescue unit. The blanks are available at the Chisel Inn, and those planning to take trips off the main road are requested to file a copy of their "flight plans," to aid in the case of a call for help.

* * * * *

ROBERT H. PRESLEY

Bob Presley died at his home in Lucerne Valley on Oct. 10 at the age of 73.

Mr. Presley was an officer in the Desert Ears CB Club in Johnson Valley, and a regular visitor to the area. He was a native of New York. He retired as a school principal in the Los Angeles system in 1958.

He was a member of the Bell Masonic Lodge 483, a Lion, and World War I army veteran. Internment was at Lucerne Valley Memorial Park.

Join the Johnson Valley Improvement Association. Promote orderly growth in the Valley. Meets the first Saturday of the month in the community building on Larrea Road.

Dues \$2.50 per person
Star Route 2, Box 755, Yucca Valley,
Calif. 92284

The Desert Whispers is published the last Saturday of the month in Timico Acres, Johnson Valley. Subscriptions \$2 a year for 12 issues. Mailing address: Star Route 2, Box 804, Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284

Martha Coutant executive editor
Marie Stanley associate editor
Stanley Coutant managing editor

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TELEPHONES? MAYBE!

General Telephone officials are still seeking approval of the Public Utilities Commission for a franchise in Johnson Valley.

The latest move was to re-file with the PUC, and a request for an answer 30 days after receipt of the letter.

The telephone company seeks to expand the Homestead Valley Exchange from 39 square miles to 180 square miles, by means of buried cable.

A rate of \$3.90 per month is anticipated, according to a communication from Ralph Dutro, division manager, to Mrs. Clarence Estes, chairman for the Johnson Valley Improvement Assn. phone committee.

It is estimated that service could be established eight months after PUC authorization.

The phone company informed the PUC that it has an obligation to the public in the interests of public health, security, convenience and the general welfare.

* * *

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS - THE CATHEYS

If you're ever down in the dumps, drop in on Jim and Lillie Cathey. Jim has been dispensing bons mots since his courting days in Missouri, when he named his horse Closer, so he could say "get up Closer."

Apparently Lillie obliged.

The Catheys have lived in Johnson Valley for the past ten years. Jim retired as superintendent of maintenance for Calamer in Norwalk, in 1954.

The Catheys are among the founding members of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association, (formerly Grandview) and are still active workers in the organization.

Jim and Lillie grew up in Missouri, and following their marriage, moved to Kansas where they raised their family, two girls and a boy. The son is teaching vocational agriculture at Missouri University. One daughter lives in Ontario, the other is in Kansas City.

The Catheys have done a tremendous amount of rock work at their desert home. Parts of the house are rock. And they have created a unique cactus garden, with raised planters, and various units in interesting shapes of stars, circles and diamonds, all cemented, as are the garden paths.

Jim challenges all comers to a game of Aggravation, which may be an antidote, for the Catheys are among the least aggravating of desert dwellers. They are certainly good neighbors.

THE OLD HORNED TOAD

Johnson Valley was apparently named for a Mr. Johnson who lived on the north side of the Valley, near the two sand-hills covered with mesquite. The hills can be seen from Old Woman Springs Road and Timico, and probably most of the rest of the Valley. Only a water tank remains as evidence of the homestead.

The Johnsons raised a large family, according to the report.

Ancel Cole dug up the information. He contacted Mr. Johnson in Landers, who is no relation to our mysterious character about whom we'd like to know more.

* * * * *

Speaking of the Coles, Perl Mesta has nothing on our Pearl Cole. The Coles frequently open their home for outdoor affairs. And very pleasant it is, under the pergola, or the trees, steak barbecuing, sun setting, and a cordial greeting from the hosts. * * * * *

No news on water this month. We're all waiting to hear the news from the Farm Home Administration, to see if approval is given to the Bighorn Rural Water Association's plans for a user-to-user system. * * * * *

A whirlwind came boiling past the old horned toad's rock this past week and deposited a passel of bothering words. Seems there are some old timers who worked hard to organize the improvement association and build the community hall and feel they are the forgotten. Not so, says the old horned toad. Come to the hall and see how the association has grown and how many people are working hard to carry on the job you started. The building is in good shape and plans are to build a kitchen addition. Rest rooms have been constructed.

It takes money to maintain a community building. Fund raising activities are being held, and from the attendance, members, friends and neighbors are enjoying the facility. It is hoped to have some activity every month. So come to the turkey dinner Nov. 2 and see an active group of people who appreciate your efforts enough to carry on.

* * * * *

More than 100 attended the dime-a-dip prior to the October meeting of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association, raising \$148 for the association coffers.

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General Telephone has 64 other projects besides trying to provide phones in Johnson Valley. The communication of 19 pages to the PUC includes requests for 58 changes and seven new areas to be served. Rugged mountains cause problems in Topanga Canyon, and sparse settlement in Devore requires special treatment. Paper work alone appears formidable, with revisions up to the 24th. Take heart all ye cynics. Somebody in the office likes us.

* * * * *

If you feel that your section is not represented by news in the Desert Whispers, appoint yourself a contributing editor and jot down items and mail to us. Seems we start out to find news, but we visit too long at each place. Wait until we have phones. We'll haunt you all then. -M.C.

Politicos who prophesy

"Grassroots support" will boon their try
May learn, when all the votes are in,
That grass can grow exceeding thin.

-T.B. Thomson.

The true test of intelligence is not
how much we know how to do, but how we
behave when we don't know what to do.

- John Holt

SMOKE TREES

Smoke trees grow almost exclusively in washes of the Colorado Desert of Southern California. They resemble a wisp of gray smoke from a distance. In summer they bloom with small blossoms of brilliant blue. The seeds have extremely tough coats except when fresh. During flash floods, the seeds are tumbled and ground by the water until they crack open. The seedlings usually spring up about 150 to 300 feet downstream from the parent tree, according to observations.

220-MHz. M.S. First

The first recorded 220-MHz. meteor scatter contact has been made, with a Timico Acres property owner participating.

On Aug. 9, after two months of daily schedules, Mel Baer, W6WSQ, (Timico), and Don Hilliard, W4EYE, completed the first contact on record.

It is difficult to make contact on such extremely high frequencies. The feat is another in the long series of amateur radio "firsts."